THE DISTRIBUTION OF IMMIGRANTS

By CARROLL D. WRIGHT, LL. D.,
UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER OF LABOR.

Most people get alarmed when they read the statistics of immigration, and their apprehension leads them to some conclusions which cannot be substantiated by an analysis of the figures. In 1775, according to Mr. Bancroft, the historian, one-fifth of all the people in the colonies had for their mother tongue some other language than the English. The one-fifth who could not claim the English mother tongue were immigrants from France, Sweden, Holland and Germany, the relative importance of the immigration from these different countries being in the order named. Probably at the present time at least one-half, instead of one-fifth of our population, cannot claim the English language as the mother tongue.

The number of immigrants coming into this country between 1820 and June 30, 1900, was 19,115,221. Prior to 1820 the government did not take account of immigration, but the generally accepted estimate of the total immigration between the adoption of the Constitution and 1820 is about 250,000. This number is not included in the above total.

The character of the immigration has changed in a most interesting way. From 1821 to 1850 2.3 per cent. of our immigration came from Canada and Newfoundland; during the next decade (1851 to 1860) the percentage was the same, and during the last decade only .1 per cent. of the immigrants were from those sections. From 1821 to 1850 24.2 per cent. came from Germany, and in the next decade 36.6, this being the highest percentage reached by the Germans. During the last decade the Germans supplied only 13.7 per cent. of our foreign immigration. During the period first named (1821 to 1850) Great Britain furnished 15 per cent. of the immigrants, and in the next decade 16.3 per cent. Then came a large increase from Great Britain between 1861 and 1870, the percentage being 26.2; from 1871 to 1880 it was 19.5, while for the last decade it was but 7.4. From 1821 to 1850 Ireland furnished 42.3 per cent. of our immigrants, and between 1851 and 1860 35.2 per cent. Since then there has been a very rapid decrease, and between 1891 and 1900 Ireland furnished but 19.5 per cent. of our immigrants. Those from Norway and Sweden constituted only .6 per cent. between 1821 and 1850. The Scandinavians increased in numbers between 1881 and 1890, when their proportion was 10.8 per cent.; during the last decade it was 8.7 per cent.

The immigration from the whole group just named—Canada and Newfoundland, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland and Norway and Sweden—shows a marked relative decrease. While the immigrants from these countries constituted 74.3 per cent. of the whole number of immigrants during the entire period under discussion, they furnished, between 1821 and 1850, 84.4 per cent. of the total, and during the next decade 91.2 per cent., since which time there has been a rapid decrease, this group of countries, during the last decade, furnishing 40.4 per cent.

A SHARP COMPARISON.

These figures enable us to bring into direct and sharp comparison the immigration from countries which, fifty years ago, furnished hardly any increment to our population. From 1851 to 1860 Austria-Hungary sent no immigrants to this country, or not enough to make any impression upon the statistics, but between 1861 and 1870 the immigration from that country was .4 per cent., during the next decade, 2.6 per cent.; from 1881 to 1890, 6.7 per cent., while during the last decade it was 16.1 per cent. Italy, beginning with .2 per cent. during the period from 1821 to 1850, increased to 2 per cent. between 1871 and 1880, and to nearly 6 per cent. during the next decade, while during the last decade that country furnished 17.7 per cent. of our total number. The proportions for Russia and Poland are almost identical with those of Italy. Those two countries taken together, beginning with only .1 per cent. of our total number of immigrants between 1821 and 1850, increased but very slightly until between 1881 and 1890, when they contributed 5 per cent., and during the last decade 16.3 per cent. These three sections—Austria-Hungary, Italy and Russia and Poland—taken together, contributed, during the last decade, 50.1 per cent. of our immigrants, as against 40.4 per cent., as stated, for the group of five countries first named. The remainder—9.5 per cent.—came from various countries.

It is interesting to know how many of the 19,115,221 immigrants coming to this country since 1821 are now living. The recent census, by its classification of population into native and foreign-born, answers the question, and we find that of the total number of immigrants, 54.7 per cent. were living in June, 1900. In 1880, 62 per cent. of the whole number of immigrants at that date were living, while in 1850 44.4 per cent. were still in existence.

The distribution of the foreign-born from an industrial point of view cannot be stated for the last census, as the classification of occupations is not yet ready, but in 1890, of the total number of persons engaged in agriculture, 12.87 per cent. were foreigners; in manufacturers, 31.64 per cent.; in mining, 50.51 per cent.; in domestic and personal service, 32.99 per cent.; in trade and transportation, 21,78 per cent., and in all other occupations, 14.39 per cent. of the total engaged were foreigners. Taking all the occupations in the country together, it is found that 22.91 per cent. of all the persons engaged were of foreign birth. These figures show that the chief concentration is employment in connection with manufactures, mining and domestic and personal service.

During the year ending June 30, 1900, the total number of immigrants was 448,572. Of this number, 2,332 belonged to the professional class, 61,443 were skilled laborers, 163,598 were laborers, while 134,941, including women and children, had no specified occupation.

RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL.

The distribution of our immigrants from a religious point of view cannot be stated with statistical accuracy, because the census asks no questions relative to the theological beliefs of the people; but taking the sources from which immigrants come as a basis for a rough estimate, it is quite safe to say that our immigrants have been quite equally divided between the Catholic and Protestant faiths. If there is any preponderance over one-half, it is on the side of the Protestants.

From a political point of view, it is generally supposed that the majority of immigrants join the Democratic party, but when we study more closely into the matter we find that the reverse is true. It may be that the concentration of one class of immigrants in particular localities gives the balance of power to the immigrants joining any particular party, but if we look at the general influence of immigration throughout the country, the conclusions as to the political bearing of immigration are somewhat confusing. For instance, at the last presidential election the statistics of the vote show very clearly that in most of the States having a large proportion of foreign born, say from 12 per cent. upward, the Republican ticket prevailed. There are a few exceptions to this, as, notably, Colorado, with 16.9 per cent. foreign; Montana, with 27.6 per cent. foreign, and Nebraska, with 16.6 per cent. foreign.

The State having the largest percentage of foreign-born in 1900 was North Dakota, that element constituting 35.4 per cent., the next largest being Rhode Island, with 31.4 per cent.. The other extreme is found in the Southern States, where the lowest percentage is in North Carolina, her foreign-born constituting but .2 per cent. of her total population. Nearly all the States in the Southern section come below 5 per cent. The number of foreign-born in some States seems to be decreasing; in fact, the percentage in the whole country has decreased 1 per cent.

The migration of immigrants from States is a very interesting subject. South Carolina, with a very small per cent. of her whole population foreign born, lost 11.8 per cent. of it during the last decade; Nebraska, 12.4; Kansas, 14; Kentucky, 15.3; Tennessee, 11.4, and Nevada, 31.4 per cent. This shows that the foreign-born element is adopting the ways of the native element in changing its habitat as industrial interests demand.

Washington, D. C.

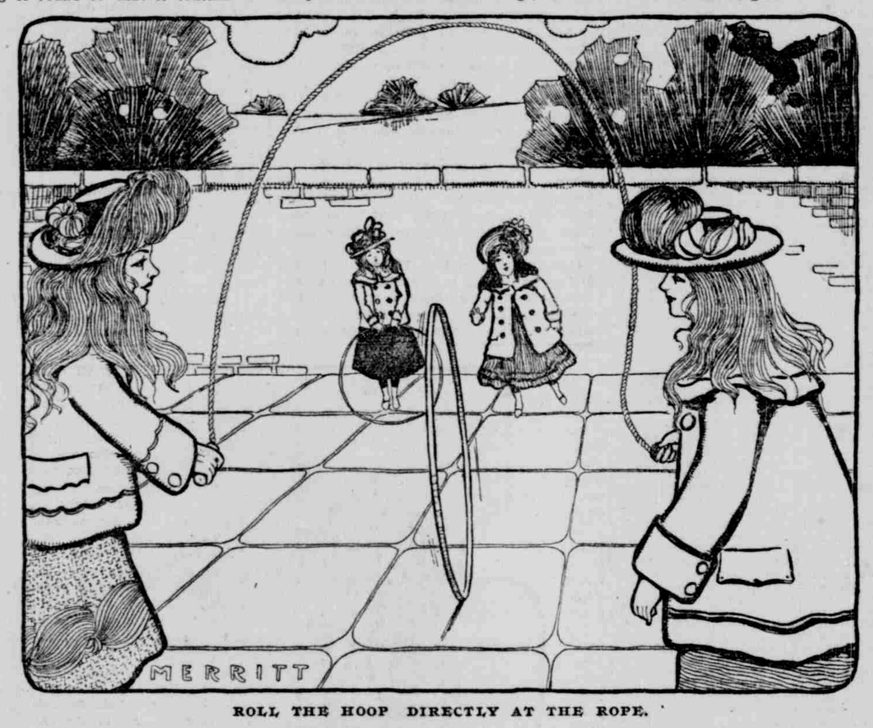
HOOP THE ROPE

A RECESS GAME FOR GIRLS.

Here is a recess game for our little girls, played with a hoop and a skipping rope, that is very simple indeed, and yet is great fun; at least, the little girls who have tried it say so. The girls play "partners," two on a side. Two of the girls turn the skipping rope, one on each end, while the other two stand behind a line fifteen feet away. The girls with the rope are having their "innings" and they turn the rope briskly just as if they were turning for someone to skip. One of the girls with the hoop on the "outside" holds it directly at the rope. She may roll it fast or slow, as she pleases, as her object is to keep the "inside" from making the hoop "skip" over the rope by whirling it round so that it touches the ground at just the moment that the hoop is about to pass over it.

If the "inside" are clever enough to do this they may score one point, but if they fail and the rope knocks the hoop over, or if the rope should pass over the hoop, then the "outside" score one point. The two players of the "outside" take turns in rolling the hoop, and if it should not go far enough or if it should go in the wrong direction and not pass between the two of the "inside," then the "inside" scores one point. Both players of the "outside" roll the hoop five times each, and then they have their "innings." Then the girls who have been turning the rope take their turn at rolling the hoop. Each side has three innings, and the side that has scored the greatest number of points at the last inning wins the game.

The hoop is liable to do the most extraordinary things when it touches the rope, especially if both are going fast. It may slip over as if the rope were not there at all or it may leap high in the air, and coming down again perform amazing evolutions on the ground. It may be thrown back in the direction from whence it came, and after rolling that way for a few feet suddenly come back toward the rope again. The rapidly whirling rope gives the moving hoop a peculiar twist that causes it to revolve rapidly, and thus do these strange antics, and as it seldom does the same thing twice, this furnishes no small part of the fun in the game.



ROLL THE HOOP DIRECTLY AT THE ROPE.

MODERN FABLES BY GEORGE ADE.

THE MODERN FABLE OF THE TWO OLD PALS AND THE CALL FOR HELP

Once there was a Married Man who had two Friends whom he had not given up, even to oblige the Missus. They were two Men whom he had known since Boyhood's Happy Days away back in a web-foot Village. Once in a while the Man would have the Two around to the House for Dinner.

Of these two Friends, one was a Gusher and the other a Grouch.

The Gusher was eternally bubbling over with Compliments and Kind Wishes. Whenever he met an Acquaintance he handed him a rhetorical Yard of Daisies and then smeared him with Sweet Endearments. His talk never had any specific Purport. It was unadulterated Con. The Gusher should have been in the Diplomatic Service. One of his hot Specialties was to get at Dinner Parties and propose Toasts. He would hot-air the Ladies until

HE WOULD HOT-AIR THE LADIES.

they flushed Crimson from the Joy of being hot-aired. Even if the Speech was known to be cut-and-dried Blarney, it never failed to swell the Adorable Creatures, as he called them.

He had a pump-handle Shake for every Man he met and after the second Day he called him Old Fellow and inquired as to his Health in a Tone of trembling Solicitude and picked little pieces of Lint off his Coat.

"I know it's Guff," the man would say after the Gusher had passed on, "but, my Stars! He can ladle out that Soothing Syrup and never spill a Drop."

The Grouch, on the other Hand, gave a correct Imitation of a Bear with a Sore Toe. His Conversation was largely made up of Grunts. He carried a Facial Expression that frightened little Children in Street Cars and took all the Starch out of sentimental Young Ladies. He seemed perpetually to carry the Hoof Marks of a horrible Nightmare. Some said that he had been Blighted in Love and had soured on the Universe. Others imagined that his Liver was out of Whack. At any rate, he was shy on Sweetness and Light. His Dial suggested a Map of the Bad Lands and he was just out of Kind Words. He could Knock better than he could Boost.

When the Gusher would arise at the Dinner Table to blow Bubbles and distribute Candy the Grouch would slide down in his Chair until he was resting on his Shoulder Blades. He seemed to have a Calomel Taste in his Mouth as he listened to the musical drip of the Mush and Milk. That kind of Language went with some People, but nix for Sweeney!

The Wife of the Married Man liked the Gusher and tolerated the Grouch.

Every time the Gusher came into the Flat, he held her Hand a little longer than necessary and looked into her Hazel Eyes and told her she was becoming Younger and more Charming every Day. After a Woman turns the 30 Corner, those Speeches are worth a Dollar a Word, because she finds herself Guessing at times. Husband never was jealous. He knew that the Gusher told every Woman the same thing, playing no Favorites.

When the Grouch came to see them, he said "How are you?" and then began to kick on the Weather and tell about his Rheumatism. One thing was certain. The Grouch never would break up any Happy Homes. And it was predicted that he would never get a Wife unless he took her on a Mortgage.

Every Husband has a few Friends who come in for hard Raps from the Wife. And the Grouch got all that was coming to him. She used to declare up and down that she was going to break his Plate and revoke his License. Husband would remind her that he and the Grouch had roomed together at College and done the Comrades Act ever since they were Boys. He would assure her that the Grouch was a Good Fellow, but you had to know him thirty or forty years before you found it out. He would smooth her down and straighten out her Feathers and she would agree to give the Grouch just one more Chance.

It came about that one Year the Married Man got Gay and swam out to where it was over his Head. In his keen Anxiety to enlarge his Business he took on about three Tons of Liabilities. Ninety days make but a fleeting Span when Notes are falling due. One day the Married Man found himself hanging on the edge of the Gully, with a Choice of jumping to the Rocks below or waiting to be Scalped. It was not a dignified thing to do, but he had to yell for Assistance and yell plenty.

He hot-footed to the Gusher, friend of his Youth and God-Father to his Children. He explained that his Heels were beating a Tattoo on the Ragged Edge of Insolvency, and unless he could raise the Wind, it meant a Receiver over at the Works, his Credit evaporated and the Pianola to the Hock-Shop.

The Gusher listened with Tears in his Eyes. In a Voice all choked with Sobs he tendered his Sympathy and his Sincere Hope that all would yet be Well. He told him it grieved him to see a Friend go under the Rollers. It tore his Heart. It did, for sure. In fact it had so upset him that he would have to go out into the Air. So he did an Olga Nethersole Exit with one Hand over his streaming Eyes, and the life-long Friend sat there with Salt Water spattered all over him and nothing in his Hand.

As soon as he had dried his Clothes he went to the Grouch and candidly owned up

HAD NO SYMPATHY TO GIVE OUT.

that he was on the Waiting List for the Poor House unless he could borrow enough to tide him over.

As might have been expected the Grouch began to Roast him. He told him that he didn't have as much Business Gumption as a Belgian Hare, and a Chump who would walk into Debt with his Eyes open deserved to get it right in the Collar.

"If you're looking for Sympathy, you've barked up the wrong Tree," said the Grouch.

"I'm not," was the Reply. "I've just received enough Sympathy to last me all Winter."

The Grouch snarled and reached for his Check Book.

"You can have whatever you need, but you don't deserve it," he said, and he signed it, leaving it Blank above.

"In view of the Fact that you have saved my Life, I will try to forgive you for lacerating my Feelings," said the Married Man.

They retained the Flat, but the Grouch is just as Unpopular as ever.

Moral: A Friend who is very Near and Dear may in Time become as useless as a Relative.

GROUCH LISTENING TO THE GUSHER.

VALUE OF THE CAMERA

INDISPENSABLE AS A FACTOR IN BUSINESS AFFAIRS.

In Municipal Administration in Large Cities It Has Become an Important Adjunct.

The day in which the small portable camera was looked upon merely as a source of amusement has long since passed, and now, instead of serving as a pastime only, it is employed as an important factor in many lines of business of which the general public never dreams, and is considered an almost indispensable adjunct of the municipal administration in all the larger cities.

If there has been an accident due to a broken plank in a sidewalk or the falling wall of a building, within a very short time a man with a camera will appear upon the scene, take several pictures of the general locality and of the particular spot in question, and hurry away. If you should follow him you would find that he made his way back to the courthouse, where the picture, after the usual process of development and printing, is filed away as evidence in the damage suit against the city which is almost sure to follow.

From one-half million to one million dollars is a fair estimate of the amount of damage suits brought against a city of 200,000 population in a single year, and while the picture adduced in evidence may result in a verdict for the plaintiff as often as against them, the value of the evidence is very great and is so regarded by the legal department of the city government.

Some of the photographs show defective sidewalks, lack of protection where an adjoining lot is lower than the walk, coal holes that have been carelessly left open, ice formed upon a walk by water seeping through an abutment of a bridge, and any number of similar conditions which have been the cause of accidents more or less serious.

A TRUSTWORTHY WITNESS.

Sometimes the pictures give conclusive evidence that the city officials have been negligent, sometimes they are equally conclusive that the person seeking redress has no foundation for his claim. Sometimes the blame is found to rest upon private property owners. In all cases the picture brings indisputable evidence to bear upon the case.

One such picture noted shows where a railroad engine had crashed into a bridge belonging to the city, and the photograph was used as evidence in enforcing the claims of the city against the railway company. Another set of photographs was used in a suit against the city, where a falling rock from a high cliff had crashed through the roof of a building. One of the pictures showed the building and the hill just back, and another showed the condition of the room into which the rock had crashed. The rock was upon the floor of the room, and the furniture and walls were a total wreck.

The work of photographing all these cases is done for the legal department by employes of the city engineer, and photographs are also taken of the construction work of that department, showing the progress made in contract work, a file of such pictures taken daily, forming the best evidence possible of the work done.

The use of the camera in the health department is more recent. During the present agitation of the question of vaccination for school children, when anti-vaccination socities have been formed and the work of the health department along this line has been antagonized, a picture of a bad case of smallpox has been used to convince the anti-vaccinationists that perhaps after all they would not "rather have smallpox than to be vaccinated." One would think the picture sufficiently conclusive.

The dairy inspectors have their troubles too, and they have learned to turn to the camera for vindication. When a dairyman or a farmer tells them their theory that tuberculosis in cattle affects the milk or the beef is all "bosh," they produce a photograph of the meat of a cow so affected. This, too, is conclusive.

TO ENFORE SMOKE ORDINANCE.

But the most unique use to which the health department has turned the camera is in the enforcement of the smoke ordinance. It is a very easy matter to take a picture of a tall chimney which is emitting a vast cloud of smoke, and easy, too, to take it from such a point of view that the name of the firm, printed in big letters upon the building, shall show as well. When the parties are arrested and the picture shown them there is little opportunity for pleading "not guilty." The judges are quite willing to accept the evidence of the pictures.

The city officials also turn their camera upon the network of wires and poles which telephone and telegraph companies have promised to remove, and which endanger city property in times of fire. Then, upon the other hand, the telephone companies occasionally find use for the same handy little instrument. During a recent strike a man was employed to ascend one of the company's poles to do some work, and besides his usual instruments he was given a camera to carry. Upon descending from the pole he was set upon by some strikers, and succeeded in getting a satisfactory group picture under somewhat trying circumstances. The picture proved the means of identifying some of the men engaged in the strike and its attendant troubles.

The street-railway companies and other business concerns as well use a camera to reduce the immense sheets of figures with which they have to deal to a more compact form. A sheet measuring several feet in length and width is photographed and brought down to the size of an ordinary business letter.

All the large universities use cameras extensively in various departments of their work. One photographer finds constant employment in the botanical department, another in the dairy department of the Agricultural College, while the medical department finds the photographer indispensable also. The botanist not only takes pictures of local plant life, but he is sent on long trips to collect photographs of the vegetation and flora of distant points. These pictures are used to make lantern slides, which serve to illustrate lectures given the classes. In the medical department pictures are taken during surgical operations, and are also used as illustrations of lectures. Pictures taken during the different stages of an operation serve much more clearly than words to describe the steps and the nature of the work.

Railway companies are constantly employing photographers of recognized ability to go out with surveying parties into new country and bring back the record of their trip. They also send photographers out over their established lines to get the best scenic views of the country passed through, and also to photograph any paradise of the hunter or fisherman which is accessible from their road. These views are used in the folders and in the more pretentious books which are now a feature of railway advertising.

THE DOCTORS USE IT.

While many doctors make a more or less extensive use of the camera, it is absolutely indispensable to the orthodontia specialist. This is the doctor who changes the features of his patients, bringing back into place protruding teeth, building out deficient chins, filling out the thin straight upper lip and giving it a beautiful curve, and reducing the size of the too-prominent jaw. The orthodontia specialist has not been sufficiently long established for people in general to take him seriously, and his claims are apt to be regarded as a joke. But when he shows you a picture of a girl whose upper teeth protrude so that it is impossible for her to close her mouth, and later a picture of the same girl with lips closed and the formerly unsightly teeth in their natural position, you can scarcely go back of the proof. In another case the profile is shown of a young lady with a deficient lower jaw, the picture being taken before the treatment was commenced. Later on, when the treatment has reached an advanced stage, another picture is taken, and still a third when the treatment is complete. These furnish indisputable proof of the efficiency of the treatment, for the untouched negatives are shown, as well as the finished photographs. These pictures are needed often to convince the patient, as well as the inquiring skeptic. The process of change is necessarily slow, since it is a matter of growth, and as the patient watches his own features day by day and the immediate family does the same the change is seldom appreciated. Then the picture taken before the treatment was begun is shown, and the result is a vindication of the doctor's claims, the patient then, probably for the first time, realizing what a difference has been brought about. "I simply could not get along without my camera," is the verdict of this specialist.

IMPORTANT TO DETECTIVES.

In the police department of the city government the camera has long been used in furnishing attractions for the rogues' gallery, but other and less well understood methods of making the instrument useful have sprung up within a comparatively short time. The detectives find it of the greatest aid in their work, and for them a special detective's camera is constructed. This is small and the pictures taken with it are afterward enlarged. The lens of this camera is adjusted back of a buttonhole in the vest. The tube extends beneath the clothing to the pants pocket, where the bulb is concealed. The operator has only to face the object of his interest, press the bulb in his pocket and the picture is taken.

With this camera the detective can go among criminals or suspected criminals and secure pictures, which are sent to the chief of police for identification. Many arrests are made by this means. The detectives use hand cameras, too, for much of their work, taking pictures in a crowd on the street or wherever they can work unobserved by the object of their attention.

One of the most interesting ways in which the detective cameras are used is in connection with suits for damages brought against railway companies. When such a suit is brought and for any reason the company has reason to suspect that the claim is unjustly made a detective is employed to watch the plaintiff. In one instance where a man claimed to have a broken knee cap as the result of his injury and as a consequence to be unable to walk about a detective took a picture of him while carrying two pails of water across his yard. In another case a detective equipped as a surveyor took several pictures of a man who claimed to be entirely disabled while he was chopping and sawing a large pile of wood.

One woman brought suit against a railway company for injuries received in a wreck, claiming that she was obliged to go on crutches entirely. A detective engaged board at her house. He found that whenever there was a knock at the door she would pick up her crutches and hobble to it, but as soon as her caller had gone the crutches were thrown aside and she would go about her usual work. As a result of this discovery he began taking pictures each day by means of his detective camera, and at the end of the week he had photographs showing her in the act of scrubbing, washing, sweeping, waiting on table, and in fact performing all the ordinary tasks of the household. When the pictures were complete they were shown to her attorney and the suit was dropped.

Even flashlight pictures are resorted to by detectives, who must obtain their pictures where and how they may.

J. D. COWLES.

A SCOTSMAN AND MR. M'KINLEY.

Personal Reminiscence of a Delegate to the Pan-Presbyterian Council.

Edinburgh Scotsman.

On the occasion of the visit of the Pan-Presbyterian Council to Washington two years ago, President McKinley gave a reception to the delegates at the White House. We were rather late in reaching Washington after a tour of the far West, so we missed the reception and our fellow-delegates were not slow to tell us how very interesting and delightful it had been. My friend and I had, however, something better in store. Calling for a well-known banker in the city, and telling him of our disappointment in not meeting the President, we were advised to ask at the White House for the President's secretary, Mr. Porter, and send in our cards. It was a Saturday, and on the Monday following Admiral Dewey was to be welcomed in Washington, and on Tuesday the gold sword of honor was to be presented. We were assured by the secretary that the President was engaged in a Cabinet meeting, but that if we could wait he would see what could be done.

In the course of ten minutes he came to us saying: "The President will see you, gentlemen," and brought us to a side room of the Cabinet chamber, where the President was standing talking to a lady and gentleman. Soon he came forward to us, a rather short, well-built man, of some sixty years. His strong, somewhat Napoleonic, face lighted with a smile, and shaking hands cordially with us, he said: "You have come to Washington for the Presbyterian Council. What do you think of our city?" I replied that we had been across the continent, and that we had arrived in Washington only the day before, but that it struck me at first sight as a beautiful city. He then said: "And what do you think of our country? You know we are sometimes accused of boasting about it." I replied that I thought there were enormous resources behind. He next remarked on our being from Scotland, and said: "You know I am of Scotch descent." "Indeed, Mr. President," said I, "may I ask with what part of Scotland you claim connection?" He replied: "Well, with the north of Ireland." "We draw a geographical distinction," said I, "but the people of the north of Ireland are largely of Scottish origin. May I ask if it is long since your ancestors came over here?" "My great-grandfather came from Ireland," said he. He next asked: "How have you been impressed by our country?" "It has been a constant wonder to me," I replied, "how such a conglomerate of peoples has been fused into a great nation," and I added: "I suppose one good result, at least, of the recent war will be to evoke the national spirit, and to weld the Nation together in a growing patriotism and community of aim." To this I don't know that he made any reply. The interview closed by his saying: "I am glad I have met you. I hope you will enjoy your stay in Washington." Altogether we would be some five minutes with him—a long time in the middle of the busy life of a man at the head of a great Nation. His face seemed to me to be full of intelligence and power. There was a simple and somewhat serious dignity in his address, while his manner was very quiet and winning. To me the outstanding features of his personality were strength and charm.

Later I had occasion to send him a book I had written, with a note in which I spoke of the bond that seemed to be growing stronger between Great Britain and America, and I had a delightful acknowledgment from him expressive of his interest and regard.

A SCORCHER.

Mistress of the House—Here you've broken my very finest bread plate. How did you come to do it?

Cook—I accidentally dropped one of the biscuits you made yesterday on it.

Dolls for Princesses.

New York Tribune.

Three dolls, representing different aspects of Paris fashions, have been presented to the three daughters of the Empress of Russia, the Grand Duchess Olga, Tatiana and Xenia. The dolls were the gift of a famous Paris dressmaker, who lent all his skill to making their attire beautiful and effective. One doll is dressed for an evening party, in a gown of wheat-colored mousseline de soie, trimmed with lace of a sage green shade. The mantle is of beige colored cloth, lined throughout with white satin. White embroidery covers the lapels. A white gauze touque, adorned with feathers and diamonds, complete the costume. The second doll is dressed as a yatchswoman, the costume being made of white cloth. A small "sweater" and golf cape complete the effect. For the third doll a dress of the time of Louis XV was selected. The gown is made of white satin, with garlands of flowers festooned around the bottom of the skirt by combinations of ribbon. On the corsage flowers are attached by velvet bows, and Mechlin lace gives an airy effect to the costume. A large picture hat is garlanded with pompon roses, and the flower effect is carried out even to the white leather shoes, which have tiny bouquets attached, instead of jeweled buckles.

Gilbert's Test in Writing Plays.

Boston Herald.

In a recently published interview Mr. W. S. Gilbert, the veteran writer of plays, is persistently old-fashioned and moral in his view of the proper ideal of dramatic art. Speaking of "the young girl in the dress circle" he says: "I have always held that maxima reverentia is due to that young lady. I am so old-fashioned as to believe that the test whether a story is fit to be presented to an audience in which there are many young ladies is whether the details of that story can be decently told at, say, a dinner party at which a number of ladies and gentlemen are present. I have always kept this test well before me in writing plays, and I have never found myself inconveniently hampered by it." The last sentence will amaze a whole brood of latter-day playwrights on whom an obligation to be decent in language and incident would rest as a paralyzing incubus. They cease to be interesting as surely as they are prevented from being immoral. This they regard as a token that they are persons of breadth and culture, whereas it really implies narrowness and barrenness.

A Curious Orchid.

Boston Transcript.

A most curious and interesting orchid has lately been discovered by Mr. E. A. Suverkrop, of Philadelphia, while engaged in plant hunting along the Rio de la Plata. He was sitting by the side of a lagoon, near a forest of dead trees which had been choked to death by orchids and climbing cacti. A branch of one these trees stretched out in front of him and about a foot above the water. Upon the branch were growing many orchids, and among the rest there was one which Mr. Suverkrop had never seen before. The sharp lanceolate leaves grew all around the root and radiated from it, and from the center or axis of the plant there hung a long tapelike stem, about an eighth of an inch thick and a fourth of an inch wide. This stem hung down in a graceful curve, and about four inches of it were under the surface of the water. On going up to examine the new specimen the discoverer touched the leaves and was astonished to see the center stem convulsively coil itself into a spiral like the spring of a watch. On close examination and dissection it was found that the stem was a long flat tube, with an opening at the outer end and connected at the inner end with the roots by a series of hairlike tubes. By observation it was found that the purpose of this stem was to supply water to the roots. When the plant is thirsty the proboscis is gradually uncoiled and lowered until the tip is filled with water, and then it is gradually coiled up again, carrying with it the water, which, as the last coil is made, trickles out upon the roots at the other end. Mr. Suverkrop found many other specimens of this orchid, some of them growing over places from which the water had been dried up by the sun. Speaking of these, he says: "It was almost pitiable to see how the tube would work its way over the ground in search of the water that was not."

A Little Boy's Wonder.

Every time I come to grandma's
Grandma calls me "little dear;"
Kisses me, and says she's very,
Very glad that I am here;
Gives me pie and crispy cookies—
Wishes I would stay a year.
When I go home in the autumn
You'd most think grandma'd be sad,
'Membering the pleasant summer
She and I and grandpa'd had.
But, my sakes! she look so smiling,
You'd imagine she was glad.

—New Orleans Picayune.

"Purty big—but he ain't near as big as he could be—'cause his skin ain't more'n half full."